

REMARKS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 11 are pending in the application. Currently, claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 have been rejected and claims 3 - 9 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

By the present amendment, claims 1 and 3 - 9 have been cancelled without prejudice, claims 2, 10, and 11 have been amended, and claims 12 - 14 have been added to the application. With regard to claims 3 - 9, Applicant hereby reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications to the subject matter of these claims.

In the office action mailed February 18, 2003, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph; claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; claims 1, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,325,937 to Suchodolski; claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,103,480 to Mason; and claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mason in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,504,905 to Irwin.

The foregoing rejections have been traversed by the instant response.

With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, the word "slide" had been incorrectly inserted into claim 2 before the phrase "guide rail" and has now been removed. It is submitted that the subject matter of claim 2 is well supported by the disclosure in the instant application and by the drawings.

With regard to the rejection of claim 11 on indefiniteness grounds, Applicant believes the position taken by the Examiner is in error when he says that one of ordinary skill in the art would not understand what is meant by the term "dense material". The rejection has been mooted however by striking the term "dense material" from claim 11.

Claim 2 is now the sole independent claim in the application. As a result, the anticipation rejection over Suchodolksi et al. has been mooted. As for the anticipation rejection over Mason, it is submitted that claim 2 is allowable because Mason does not teach or suggest at least one vibration isolator having a plurality of layers with at least one layer being a hard layer and at least one layer being a soft layer connected to a guide rail and to an elevator cab.

Claims 10 and 11 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 2, as well as on their own accord. Irwin does not cure the deficiencies of the Mason patent.

New claims 12 - 14 define structure which is not taught or suggested by any of the references of record. Thus, these claims are allowable.

The instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, he is hereby invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response. Should the Commissioner determine that a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on 5/19/03.

  
Nicole Motzer

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

2. (Amended) An elevator noise and vibration isolation system [according to claim 1, wherein] comprising: an elevator component; a second component; at least one vibration isolator being positioned between said elevator component and said second component; each said vibration isolator having a plurality of layers with at least one layer being a hard layer and at least one layer being a soft layer; said elevator component [comprises] comprising an elevator cab, said second component [comprises] comprising a [slide] guide rail, and said at least one layered vibration isolator[s] being connected to said guide rail and to said elevator cab.

10. (Amended) An elevator noise and vibration system according to claim [1] 2, wherein each said vibration isolator has a plurality of hard layers and a plurality of soft layers and said hard layers and said soft layers are alternating.

11. (Amended) An elevator noise and vibration system according to claim 10, wherein [each said hard layer is formed from at least one material selected from the group consisting of a metallic material and a dense material and]

each said soft layer is formed from at least one material selected from the group consisting of synthetic rubber, natural rubber, and a silicon elastomeric material.